

What is claimed is:

1. An air conditioner comprising:

a compressor for sucking and compressing a refrigerant;

5 an outdoor heat exchanger for effecting heat exchange between a refrigerant and outdoor air;

a pressure-reducing means for reducing the pressure of and expanding a high pressure refrigerant;

10 an indoor heat exchanger for effecting heat exchange between a refrigerant and air which is blown into a compartment;

an inlet side switching valve for opening and closing a refrigerant path on the refrigerant inlet side of the indoor heat exchanger; and

15 an outlet side switching valve for opening and closing a refrigerant path on the refrigerant outlet side of the indoor heat exchanger; wherein

both the switching valves open the refrigerant paths by the use of the pressure produced by 20 the compressor and close the refrigerant paths by the use of the elastic force of elastic means when the compressor comes to a stop.

2. An air conditioner, as set forth in claim 1, wherein both the switching valves close the refrigerant paths by the use of the suction pressure of the 25 compressor.

3. An air conditioner, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the inlet side switching valve and the outlet side switching valve are formed integrally.

30 4. A switching valve for an air conditioner which comprises a compressor for sucking and compressing a refrigerant, an outdoor heat exchanger for effecting heat exchange between a refrigerant and outdoor air, a pressure reducing means for reducing the pressure of and 35 expanding a high pressure refrigerant, and an indoor heat exchanger for effecting heat exchange between a refrigerant and air which is blown into a compartment;

opens and closes refrigerant paths on a refrigerant inlet side and a refrigerant outlet side of the indoor heat exchanger;

comprises valve elements for opening and
5 closing the refrigerant paths, elastic means for exerting an elastic force on the valve elements in such a direction to close the refrigerant paths, and a valve body making up, together with the valve elements, back pressure chambers communicating with the suction side of
10 the compressor;

and has a construction in which the refrigerant paths are opened when the valve elements are displaced in such a direction to reduce the volume of the back pressure chambers.